



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DPI 2009-51

Monday, May 18, 2009

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2009 Wisconsin Middle Schools of Excellence named

Schools in Brookfield, Bonduel, Keshena, and Spring Green receive awards

MADISON—Elizabeth Burmaster, state superintendent of public instruction, and Jim Lynch, executive director for the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA), announced Wisconsin's Middle School of Excellence awards.

This is the second year that four middle schools—large, medium, small, and high poverty—were chosen for recognition. They are among more than 80 Exemplary Middle Schools identified last year through academic achievement criteria. Schools that received the 2009 Middle School of Excellence award are

- Large: Wisconsin Hills Middle School — Principal: Robyn Martino (Elmbrook School District in Brookfield);
- Medium: River Valley Middle School, Spring Green — Principal: Roger Hoffman;
- Small: Bonduel Middle School — Principal: Connie Rutledge; and
- High Poverty: Menominee Indian School, Keshena — Principal: Stephanie Felder.

A panel of judges, which included middle school principals and a representative from the Department of Public Instruction, judged applications. They examined the schools' efforts and accomplishments in the areas of collaborative leadership and professional learning communities; personalization and the school environment; and curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Schools were invited to apply for a Middle School of Excellence award by being in the top 10 percent of all schools in reading and mathematics achievement on the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations, having significant gains in reading or mathematics scores during the past year, or having high growth in reading or mathematics achievement in schools of high poverty.

(more)

“The staff at these schools are representative of the passion and commitment middle school teachers and staff show for providing a quality education for every child,” Burmaster said. “They embrace the transitions that middle-schoolers undergo, building on what students learned in elementary school to prepare them for high school and beyond.”

“The middle school years are a time of great social, emotional, physical, and educational growth and development. We applaud the leaders, teachers, support staff, students, and families of these schools for meeting the challenges of middle-level education and contributing to the growth of the whole student,” Lynch said.

Representatives from the four award-winning schools were recognized and presented with a gift at the awards luncheon during the AWSA Middle School Principals Conference held earlier this year.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2009_51.pdf.